

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP

MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

1:00 PM – 2:40 PM

August 27, 2003

Handouts

1) CALFED OPS GROUP Operations Briefing Package, dated August 27, 2003; Guy Masier, DWR.

2) Working Draft – INTEGRATED KEY MILESTONES, dated August 19, 2003; Chet Bowling, USBR.

Announcements

None

SWRCB Activities

The judge made a tentative ruling on the El Dorado ID matter. Term 91 water may not be used. The SWRCB is not sure at this point if they will appeal the decision.

Fishery Response Plan for Joint Point of Diversion was submitted and then withdrawn. The response plan will be resubmitted after additional details are added.

SWRCB fall workshop for the triennial review will possibly be in November or early next year.

On-Going Activities Related to the Ops Group

Status of Response Plans

Water Level Response Plan - There is conditional approval through February 2004. To utilize Joint Point of Diversion beyond September 2003 the projects must obtain the Dredging Permit from the Corp of Engineers. Agencies are working on meeting Regional Board criteria. There is a possibility for lower level approval, which would make the approval process easier. This plan is intended to be interim, but a long-term plan needs to be developed. This Plan is needed for all stages of Joint Point of Diversion.

Water Quality Response Plan – This was submitted to SWRCB and withdrawn. Agencies are working on better identifying how all D-1641 requirements will be met. The revised plan will be done fairly quickly. This Plan is needed for all stages of Joint Point of Diversion.

Fish Protection Plan – This was submitted to SWRCB. The Agencies met with SWRCB to discuss the plan. The plan was withdrawn. Agencies will work on better identifying how all D-1641 requirements will be met. This Plan is required for Stage 2 of Joint Point of Diversion.

Fishery Status

Chinook

No firm numbers for winter-run Chinook salmon are available at this time. Numbers are looking very similar to last year. Spring Run in Deer Creek is 4.3 times as many as 3 years ago at 2,759. Sacramento River temperature compliance point was moved from Bend Bridge to Jellys Ferry on August 6, 2003. The compliance point was moved again from Jellys Ferry to Balls Ferry on August 15, 2003.

Steelhead

Numbers on the American River are similar to last year. Temperatures on the American look real good. Should be able to stay within compliance. Feather River temperatures have exceeded compliance one time.

Splittail

No issues reported.

Delta Smelt

Tow net data not available. Fall Mid Water Trawl will start sometime in the fall. Federal Register notice went out August 1, 2003 on the 5 year Status. Comments due back by September 30, 2003.

Work Group Activities

OFF Update

No Update

DAT Update

DAT calls will begin on Tuesday October 7, 2003. The phone number 657-4111 has been reserved.

Operations Status

The CALFED Ops Group Operations Briefing package was discussed.

COA was suspended on August 18, 2003. CVP could no longer cut releases to maintain the COA balance. Term 91 will expire on August 31, 2003. Re-instating Term 91 could possibly occur in October. It has been hard to make reservoir release reductions as quickly as the changes to Sacramento River depletions. South of the Delta Demands are decreasing, so total San Luis storage is up a little. There should be a specific proposal submitted to the National Marine Fisheries some time this week or

next week on the potential Cross Channel Gate Experiment. Release from Keswick is at 9,000 CFS and will continue to go down as allowed by temperatures and Wilkens Slough flow criteria. Release from Nimbus is at 2,000 CFS and will be holding for now to meet flood control carryover storage targets. Goodwin release is at 275 CFS; Ripon Dissolved Oxygen is controlling. Tracy is pumping approximately 4,300 CFS. Feather River release is going from 7,000 to 5,000 CFS. Banks is targeting 6,680 CFS plus 500 CFS for EWA. Clifton Court inflow is approximately 7,180 CFS.

Delta Operations Criteria

First part of August, Jersey point 14 day average salinity was controlling. On about the 14th 4,000 outflow started to control. Now outflow is at about 7,000 (2,000 is from the thunder storms precipitation that went through the area).

Temporary Barriers

A request for the installation of the Head of Old River barrier has been received.

EWA Operations

Payment for the 26,000 acre feet May actions will be repaid to the CVP in September; 6,000 with Yuba water and 20,000 with Santa Clara water. EWA Science Symposium is set for October 15 & 16, 2003.

Proposal for Improved CVP/SWP Integrated Operations

Chet Bowling made a detailed presentation and discussed in detail the above subject. There is a Gaming process that will start the week of September 2nd to evaluate the proposition.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Cross Channel Gate Experiment Presentation

Gaming Process Results